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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5387
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RUEHBD/AMEMBASSY BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN 0051
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 2707
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1919
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 0179
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI 0049
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 0202
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 0124
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 0300
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0519
RUEHPF/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH 0074
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 0111
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 1232
RUEHVN/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 0133
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS 0289

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 000812

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DEPT FOR EAP/MLS (A. BARRASSO)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/12/2011

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [EAID](#) [PREF](#) [PREL](#) [BM](#) [EU](#) [NL](#)

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/BURMA: RESPONSE TO EC COMMENTS AT
BURMA/MYANMAR FORUM

REF: A. A) STATE 55919 (NOTAL)

[1](#)B. B) USEU BRUSSELS (NOTAL)

Classified By: Political Counselor Andrew J. Schofer; reasons 1.4 (b) a
nd (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: The GONL is adamantly opposed to any change in the European Union's position on Burma. Sanctions should remain in place. According to the Dutch, the comments of EU officials, including European Commission DG for External Relations Eneko Landaburu, do not represent EU policy. The GONL disagrees also with Special Rapporteur Razali Ismael and is interested in knowing whether Secretary General Annan plans to replace him. End summary.

[1](#)2. (C) Poloff delivered ref A demarche April 10 to MFA Burma Policy Officer Maurice Pourchez. The GONL was extremely unhappy, according to Pourchez, about Landaburu's comments at the recent Burma/Myanmar Forum (ref B). According to Pourchez, Landaburu's comments do not rpt not represent EU consensus. The GONL does not expect the current EU position on sanctions to change, and it views the positions of Austria, Germany, Spain, the European Commission, and, especially, Italy, as unacceptable. Those countries, according to Pourchez, wish to lift sanctions and engage only. The GONL believes that sanctions are absolutely necessary to maintain credibility in ongoing dialogue with the Burmese government.

[1](#)3. (C) On the Burma issue, the Netherlands considers itself aligned with Ireland, the UK and Denmark, all of which favor continued sanctions. Pourcher stressed the GONL will continue engaging the Burmese, both bilaterally and within an EU context, at events such as the upcoming Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Vienna, to encourage positive change.

[1](#)4. (C) The Dutch mission to the UN has, according to Pourchez, asked the UN Secretariat staff whether UNSG Annan will replace Special Rapporteur for Burma Razali Ismael. The Dutch understand that Annan's staff is developing a new action plan for Burma but does not have the details. They

hope it will be more robust and will be led by someone other than Ismael. The GONL would appreciate any information we have on this matter.

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